the Foreign Language Units of the External Services Division, especially the Arabic Unit;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken to improve the functioning of these Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) and (b). No, Sir, Some representations were received from some employees of All India Radio against the Supervisor of the Arabic Unit of External Services Division which appeared to be purely inspired. These were examined and were found to be incorrect.

(c) A senior officer of the level of Director is looking after all aspects of the functioning of the External Services. Its work is supervised by an officer of the level of Deputy Director General in the Headquarters of All India Radio.

Film shows in schools by the Children Film Society

2064. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names and locations of the schools where the Children Film Society organised film shows during the last two years; and

(b) the name and locations of the schools in which the said Society proposes to organise film shows in the remaining part of the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The Children's Film Society organises film shows in schools on the basis of specific requests received from the schools concerned. Such requests are received by the Society throughout the year and not at one time. The activity of the Society is brought to the notice of various schools by the Society through the education authorities of the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations.

EEC's Food Aid Programme

2065. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as part of its food aid programme for 1985, the European Economic Community (EEC) has decided to allocate 15.00 tonnes of skimmed milk powder and 200 tons of butter oil to India;

(b) if so, by when these commodities are likely to be received in India;

(c) what is the name of the agency which will allocate these items to the various States and the manner in which this will be done; and

(d) whether any part of this consignment will be made available to the National Dairy Development Board and other dairy development corporations in various States like Rajasthan; if so, the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). There are indications that the European Economic Community (EEC) is likely to allocate 15,000 tonnes of skimmed milk powder and 2,00 tonnes of butter oil for the Operation Flood II Project under Food Aid Programme for the year 1985. However, no commitment in this regard has been received from E.E.C.

(c) and (d). The Indian Dairy Corporation allocates skimmed milk powder and butter oil/butter to the various user dairies. The manner of allotment is decided every year by the Indian Dairy Corporation, on the basis of the quantity of commodity available, the demand made by the various user Dairies in the Public and Cooperative Sectors existing in the various States including Rajasthan the procurement of milk by these dairies etc.

T. V. Transmitter at Tura in Meghalaya

2066. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a 10 KW high power

transmitter at Tura for giving coverage of TV programmes for Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for selecting Tura as the T.V. Centre for the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision to instal a TV transmitter of 10 KW power at Tura was taken from the point of view of optimum utilisation of the radiated power, after taking into account such factors as geographical location local terrain conditions, etc.

2067. [*Transferred to the 22nd August 1985*].

Restoration of fallow lands in Rajasthan

2068. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far under the Prime Minister's new 20 Point Programme for restoration of under utilised or fallow lands in the tribal areas of Rajasthan;

(b) what is the programme at the Central level for soil and water conservation by combining conservation strategy with economic needs in respect of the tribal areas of Rajasthan and the assistance rendered or proposed to be rendered to the State Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent the shrinking of the cultivated land area due to desertification, and mining in the tribal belt of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) During the productivity year 1982-83 (a) scheme of restoration of fallow land other than current fallows was launched in 8 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The programme was extended to 5 more States namely Assam, Meghalaya, Orissa, West Bengal and Gujarat during 1983-84 and 1984-85. The programme envisaged restoring such areas under productive land management practices through cultivation, raising of utility trees, development of orchards and grassland and afforestation with suitable erosion control measures wherever needed. The programme was implemented with State resources. In Rajasthan, during the three year period 1982—85 a total area of 2.32 lakh ha. is reported to have been restored and brought to productive land management practices. The works include plantation of about 27.51 lakh trees of different species and an area of 15.77 ha. brought under grass cover. The programme implementation was carried out on the basis of areas lying fallow in the States irrespective of the communities inhabited there and therefore, exclusive benefit accruing to the tribal people cannot be estimated for any State including Rajasthan.

(b) In order to achieve a significant breakthrough in restoring the culturable wastelands and fallows for productive purposes, a Centrally sponsored scheme of survey, categorisation and restoration of culturable wastelands and fallows other than current fallows has been proposed during the Seventh Plan with an outlay of Rs. 255 crores to survey about 2 million ha. and treat 5 lakh ha. in the country including Rajasthan. Tribal people in the areas selected for treatment would also be benefited. The programme is however, yet to be approved by the Planning Commission.

(c) Studies conducted by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur indicate that about 16.3 million ha. of land in Rajasthan possesses high to medium natural vulnerability to land degradation. Within this, degradation process is active in 13.5 million ha. which is about 65 per cent of total land of Western Rajasthan. The studies however, do not conform to the belief that the desert is expanding or culturable land shrinking.

In order to tackle the problem of desertification and loss of productivity, the